1st Lady Alice M. Lyons

June 29, 1945 — December 9, 2008

Saturday, December 20, 2008 @ 10:00 AM
Ephesians Church of God in Christ
1709 Alcatraz Avenue
Berkeley, California
Eld. Maurice Lyons, Officiant

Obituary

Alice Marie Lyons was born to the proud parents of Embra and Viola Johnson on June 29, 1945 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was the second oldest sibling among Joseph, Ida, Betty, Faye, Jerry, and Monica. At the age of 2 her parents relocated to California, where she resided for 60 years.

While in her childhood, Alice met a vibrant and handsome young lad name Robert L. Lyons Jr., while playing in the dining room at the Good Samaritan Church of God in Christ in Oakland. She and Mary Ethel Brown both had a crush on young Robert who played them both until after the third time of quitting young Alice; he realized the error of his ways and began dating her until their engagement in 1964. Finally after a 6 year romance filled courtship at such places like Doggie Diner, A & W Root Beer, and Merrit Bakery, Robert and Alice were married on July 3, 1965 at the Good Samaritan COGIC at 8th and Grove in Oakland, California, under the leadership of Bishop Isaac Finley.

From this union were born 6 exceptional characters named Alfreda, Zachary, Erika, Genell, Darren, and Briana. Bobby and Alice raised and nurtured their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Through their training and sacrifice, these children have become men and with integrity with a firm foundation. Bobby and Alice were true examples of what a family could do if God was the head of the home. Their commitment to their family and the church has inspired many throughout the years. Alice was everything to her family, and her family was everything to her. She always told her children that the greatest gift God ever gave them was each other, and to stay together no matter what.

Alice loved the Refreshing Fountain Church Family. Even though she was the first lady, she sang in the choir, where she led such songs as, *Stay With the Lord*, *He's Up There*, *Be Sure to Love Him*, *Can God*, and *Yet Like Jesus*. She also sang with the North Central State Youth Choir and toured with the Robert Lyons Singers for many years.

Alice departed this life on December 9, 2008 at 10:22 pm while returning home from Portland, Oregon with her husband. She was preceded in death by her parents, Viola and Embra Johnson, sisters, Monica Dean and Ida Fuller, niece, Barbara Ann Fuller, uncle, Elbert Johnson, and cousin, Bishop Eddie Allen of the Praiship Singers.

Alice leaves to cherish her memory, a devoted husband of 43 years, Robert L. Lyons, Jr., two sons, Zachary (Marcela) Lyons, Darren Lyons, four daughters, Alfreda (Stanley) Campbell, Erika Lyons, Genell (Kevin) Harris, all of Oakland, California, Briana (Jeffrey) Thomas of Nampa, Idaho; four grandsons, Dominique Campbell, Demetrius Campbell, Diandre Campbell, Miles Harris; one grand-daughter, Jasmine Ross; two brothers, Joseph (Georgia) Johnson, Jerry (Charlotte) Johnson, two sisters, Faye (Michael) Blackmon, Betty Hill; one aunt, Melzora Johnson; two sister in laws, Sheryl (Samuel) Butler, Ruth Lyons, two brother in-laws, Maurice (Renea) Lyons, Kevin (Judy) Lyons, a host of nieces and nephews; good friends, Rickie Hannah, Tony Browne, Louise Carter, Ernestine Woods, Helen Williams, Marian Walker, Synthia Lofton; God Children, Reggie Nichols, Collette Christol, Debra Butler, Jeanette Scott, Freda Mitchell, Vikki Harvey, Myesha Hill, Stephanie Ford, Sean Cunningham, Chris Vinson, Gregory Walker, Billy Dixon, Kenny Davis, Venise Boykin, Cristi Ware, Jerry Allums, Levon Bennett, Aaron Johnson, and a host of other friends too many to name.

Acknowledgement

The family would like to thank everyone for all of their kindness and words of comfort during this time. We thank you for your prayers and support as we will need it for the times ahead. Please keep us in your prayers. May God continue to bless you.

10:00 am – 10:30 am ..... (2 Minutes Please) ..... Expressions of Comfort

10:30 am – 11:00 am ..... Public Parting View

Order of Service

Family Processional and Parting View ..... Clergy and Family

Master of Ceremony ..... Elder Maurice Lyons

Prayer of Comfort ..... Pastor James Watson

Scripture: .....

Old Testament.....Genesis 2:21-24.....Pastor Ronnie Thompson
New Testament .....2 Corinthians 5:1-8 .....Pastor Elmer Randolph

Selection .....

Remarks ..... (2 Minutes Please) ..... Sister Louise Carter
Elder Ricky Hanna
Sister Nancy Johnson
Sister Erika Lyons

Selection .....

Remarks ..... (2 Minutes Please) ..... Bishop W. W. Hamilton
Superintendent Bennie Taylor
Elder Clifford Chappell
District Missionary Deborah Harper

Selection .....

Acknowledgements ..... Sister Barbara Webb

Selection .....

Eulogy ..... Pastor Robert L. Lyons, Jr.

Recessional .....

Printed by:
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(510) 541-7105

Interment:
Rolling Hills Memorial Park
Richmond, California

Services Entrusted To:
CP Bannon Mortuary
6800 International Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 632-1011

A Letter to My Friend

Madame Alice M. Lyons

I can hear you now when I call you, you pick up the phone and I say, "Madame Alice" as if I was introducing royalty and you just burst out laughing and say, "Girl, you are the only person that calls me that!" In my own way, I let you know that I look up to you. I would tell you that you deserve the title of "Madame" because you've stayed married in a real marriage. You and Bobby spend all of your extra time together like Robert and I, and you love doing it. You truly love one another, no pretending, no masks, no Brady Bunch Syndrome. We truly love our husbands and they truly love us. We also talked about the fact that we raised a family, but not only that, a family that still hangs with us. You would ask me "Are my nephews coming? Tell the boys I want to see them there." We always talked about the fact that our grown children would be somewhere close, and whenever you saw us, you saw them. We discussed how First Lady Macklin set this example as well. Yes, we love our children, we would say. We could discuss whatever we wanted just as long as we didn't let the grown folks know we were talking about them. Sometimes we would have to cut our talks short and you would say, "I've got to see what my grandson wants. And I would say, "Okay call me back. Don't forget." Then we would pick up where we left off the last time. You always called me to see if I was going to the next big meeting. The first thing I would say is that I didn't have anything to wear. You would crack up and say, "Well, I don't have to worry about that, Bobby is making me this tough suit." I would scream "That's not fair!" and you would crack up again. You were always dressed to the T. Like Bobby worked for Vogue. "Where did you get that?" I would ask, you would reply, "Girl, Bobby made this." Then I would argue that he didn't make it. And you would crack up again. You added so much to my life, laughter, wisdom from God, and richness that could not be bought. I have to give credit to Bobby for letting you be yourself, a friend to others.

Yes, we talked about the current affairs of the United States of America to the current affairs of the Church of God in Christ. I loved to discuss your trips to Memphis, due to the fact that I had never gone. So through your experiences, I would know exactly what it was like. I always felt like I was there through you and Bobby. We always talked about the fact that Robert and Bobby played the organ, and that we had been to more funerals than anybody because they had to play at them. We went from church to church and city to city to be at rehearsals and services. We talked about the treatment our husbands received, the good, the bad, and the downright ugly.

Let's just leave it at that. But the one thing we always said is that those experiences made us stronger and made us stay prayerful. We realized we were blessed for our many sacrifices. We knew God honored our dedication to Him and the ministries that our husbands supported. We were blessed and our families were blessed because we were right there by their side; like it or not. We knew it was God's work and it was not about us. I looked forward to going to the meetings hooking up with you, even though I knew us sitting together wasn't a good idea because we always got our laugh on. We had a ball at Mother Welch's Banquet this year. I will never forget we were sitting at the table with together with Pastor Paul and his wife, and First Lady Barbara Harris, and we had such a good time. Mother Welch was honoring all former first ladies, and I told you that I was going to ask Mother Welch why a certain first lady was up there and you just cracked up. You said, "Girl, you aren't going to ask that," And I said, "Yes I am, watch." I asked, and we laughed the rest of the meeting about that. I called you "Madame" and you called me "Crazy"! There were no airs when it came to our friendship, just real friends! And yes, I know I was not your only friend, but when we talked I was number one. I am sure that when you talked to your other friends, they were number one too!

So for all of you who believe that Madame Alice is your best friend too, that's okay, because that's the type of person she is: Classy. You are her best friend and she wants you to feel special like that. That's just her style. That's why I named her Madame Alice. My friend, I will see you at the big meeting in the sky. I won't have to worry about what to wear. I will have on my long white robe with some bling, bling of course. I'll see you there my friend, Madame Alice. I love you and until then, tell God to hook a sister up.

Love Always, your #1 girlfriend & sister,
Synthia Lofton

Madame: A title given to only special class of women. Women, who are God lovers, saved for real, married and in love with their husbands, and their husbands are in love with them. Their husbands are their best friends. Their children follow them anywhere because they are a Proverbs 31 woman. Their friends are genuine, not ostentatious. When they walk into a room, they bring joy with them. They serve others always and are true friends to those around them. Some are widows, but they are a shining example of how a single woman loves God. So don't use the word Madame loosely.

Missing You

Today as I sat in the midst of despair
Hurting and crying, gasping for air
I know it's time to say my final goodbye
Yet I cannot, all I do is cry.
Nothing can prepare you for this day
Because quite too soon you're gone away
I promise to go on with my life
Always remembering you as a great wife.
As I woke this morning the tears had gone
In my heart I know I'm not alone.
You left me something so dear
No matter where, you'll always be near.
The hurt and pain has seemed to ease
You were a wife, mother, sister,
grandmother, aunt, and friend
I knew that made you pleased.
We will take it one day at a time
Remember I am God's child
And I am doing fine.

Rest in peace in Gods hands
Iesha M. Lee

Active Pallbearers

Kenny Davis
Jerry Kennedy
Kasey Lyons
Willard Mills
Jeffrey Thomas
Brian Lyons

Honorary Pallbearers

Edmond White
Jerry Johnson Jr.
James Harris
Anthony Fuller
Earnest Battle
Lidell Ball, Jr.
Robert London
Terry Ross

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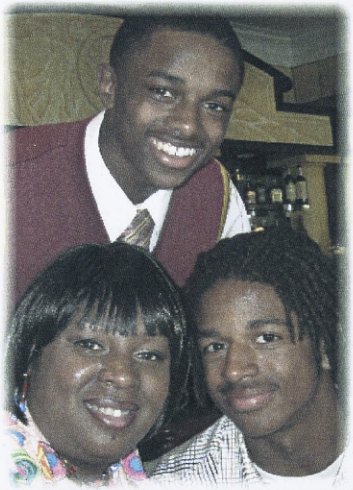
BIRTHDAY
DIVA



The Lyons Family